

REMARKS

Claims 29-66 are currently pending the present application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and arguments as included herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 29, 32, 33, 41, 53, 56, 57, 65 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Beam, U.S. Patent No. 5,368,370. Claims 29, 32, 33, 34, 53, 56, 57, 58, 65 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chase, U.S. Patent No. 5,597,213. Claims 29, 32, 33, 34, 53, 56, 57, 58, 65 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chase et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,564,791.

As amended, independent claim 1 defines a wheel and an overlay assembly that comprises, among other things, a wheel having a central axis and an outboard surface defined by a rim portion circumscribing a disk portion, wherein the rim portion has a truncated axially-extending rim flange terminating in a flange lip defining a radially outermost edge thereof, and wherein at least a portion of the flange lip extends substantially perpendicular with respect to the central axis of the wheel. Claim 29 further defines an overlay having a web portion and a peripheral flange portion terminating in a peripheral lip, wherein the peripheral lip overlays only a portion of the portion of the flange lip that extends substantially perpendicular to the wheel axis. Neither Beam, nor Chase '213, nor Chase et al. '791 disclose a flange lip and peripheral lip arrangement as now defined in independent claims 29 and 53. Therefore, none of these references as cited anticipate that which is now defined in these independent claims.

Accordingly, claims 29 and 55 are in condition for allowance. Claims 30-41 and 54-66 are dependent from claims 29 and 53, respectively, which are in condition for allowance as noted above, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 30, 31, 35-40, 54, 55 and 59-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Beam and as being unpatentable over Chase '213. Applicants contend that these rejections are now moot in view of the amendments and remarks discussed above with respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Claims 42-46 and 48-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baumgartner et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,068,350, in view of Eikhoff et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,829,843. Claim 42, as amended, defines a wheel and overlay cladding assembly comprising, among other things, a wheel having an outer surface defined by a rim portion circumscribing a disk portion, wherein the rim portion has a minimum functional flange height rim flange terminating in a radially-extending flange lip defining an outside diameter of the rim portion, and an axial protrusion extending radially outward from said rim portion and radially spaced from said flange lip. Neither Baumgartner et al. nor Eikhoff et al., either singularly or held in combination, teach, motivate or suggest that which is now defined in independent claim 42, namely, an axial protrusion extending radially outward from the rim portion and radially spaced from the flange lip.

Accordingly, claim 42 is in condition for allowance. Claims 43-46 and 48-52 depend from claim 42 which is in condition, as noted above, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Claim 47 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baumgartner et al. in view of Eikhoff et al., in further view of Chase '213. As Chase '213 does not teach, motivate or suggest that which is lacking from Baumgartner et al. and Eikhoff et al. as discussed above with respect to independent claim 42, Applicants believe that this rejection is now moot.

Accordingly, claims 29-66 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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